

St. Patrick's Day

Why the Irish, non-Irish celebrate March 17

**Lance Cpl. R. Drew
Hendricks**

Combat Correspondent

St. Patrick's Day, the Irish national holiday observed March 17, is celebrated worldwide — even here in Hawaii.

More than 34 million people in the United States claim Irish heritage, which means Saturday is going to be one big party all across the nation.

There are many ways to celebrate St. Paddy's Day: parades, festivals and block parties are just a few.

Last year's St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, Ireland, was attended by more than 500,000. In the United States, the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade has become the largest in the world, outside Ireland.

In 2006, more than 150,000 marchers participated in the parade, which it was viewed by close to two million spectators who lined the streets.

In Chicago, the river is dyed green for the celebration.

Boston was the first state to officially celebrate the holiday in 1737; and by 1852, the celebration made its way to the West Coast where it was celebrated in San Francisco.

So why is this worldwide Irish holiday celebrated in the first place?

St. Patrick, a man shrouded in myth and legend, is recognized as the Patron Saint of Ireland. Little is known about his life beyond the age-old legends, but the most popular explanation for celebrating March 17 is that he ousted all of the snakes from Ireland. This may seem odd, since scientific evidence suggests there were never snakes there to begin with. Some historians believe the snakes are nothing more than a metaphor for a druid sect, whose primary symbol was a snake.

The holiday is officially celebrated March 17 in observance of St. Patrick's death.

Regardless of the reason, this historical holiday brings thousands of people together to celebrate a culture that has



Photo courtesy of St. Patrick's Festival and Faighte Ireland

Marchers celebrate "the wearing of the green" during the 2006 St. Patrick's Day parade. The first official St. Patrick's Festival was held March 17, 1996, in Ireland. By 1997, it grew to a three-day event, and by 2000, it expanded to a four-day event. In 2006, the St. Patrick's Day festival blossomed into a five-day celebration that featured parades, marching bands, and other celebrations.

greatly influenced Americans.

The theme, of course, is "Everything Green." Orange and white also make a significant appearance, since these are colors on the Irish flag. A little-known fact is that the original St. Patrick's Day colors were orange and blue.

Deep in history, this festive holiday will soon have the people screaming "Erin Go Braugh" — Ireland forever — in the streets. Yes — even if they are English.

Hawaii is not exempt from celebrating this Irish-loving festival and neither is Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Celebrations will be held at The Officers' Club, Staff NCO Club and Kahuna's Bar & Grill.

There will also be several events held in Honolulu and cities throughout the island.

Honolulu's St. Patrick's Day Block Party will close Nuuanu Avenue from King Street to Nimitz Highway, Merchant Street, from Nuuanu Avenue to Bethel Street and Marin Lane.

The parade, scheduled to start at noon from Kalakaua Avenue and end at Queen Kapiolani Park, will include 800 marchers, 50 vehicles, two floats and five bands.

For those who truly wish to get in the spirit, here is a quick list of musts for a traditional St. Paddy's Day celebration:

- Eat corned beef and hash.
 - Drink some sort of green beverage.
 - Wear something green — or be prepared to be pinched.
 - Kiss someone who is Irish.
- If you can't find someone who is Irish, kiss someone you love.



Photo courtesy of St. Patrick's Festival and Faighte Ireland

Green fireworks fill the night sky during a St. Patrick's Day celebration. March 17 is celebrated worldwide by those of Irish and non-Irish decent, who recognize the day as a time to surround themselves with "things green and Irish."



Photo courtesy of St. Patrick's Festival and Faighte Ireland

Drummers beat their drums as they march in the 2006 St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, Ireland. The event was part of a five-day festival attended by more than 500,000. In the United States, the largest St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City and attended by two million.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations on K-Bay

The Officers' Club

March 16 at 6 p.m.

Everyone is Irish for a day! Celebrate Irish heritage at The Officers' Club with traditional Irish cuisine and live entertainment from Liberty Risk. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$8 at the door. Open to Officers' Club members. For information, call 254-7650.

SNCO Club

March 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day dinner with Irish music and a wishing well for the children. Open to SNCO Club members and sponsored guests. For information, call 254-5481.

Kahuna's Bar & Grill

March 17 at 6 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Party with the O'Carlton Band. Corned beef and cabbage and Irish stew are on the menu. The party is open to E-1s to E-5s and sponsored guests. For information, call 254-7660.

Balance is no issue

Administration chief manages home, Corps life

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
Combat Correspondent

Since Aug. 13, 1918, women have answered the call and have earned the title Marine. Opha Mae Johnson was the first woman to don the eagle, globe and anchor, and women continue to wear the device today. Sergeant Amanda Harquail, administration chief for Marine Air Group 24, is one of today's women in the Marine Corps.

"I can't say enough good things about her," said Capt. Conor Overstake, administration officer-in-charge, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463. "She has all the attributes of what a Marine should be."

Harquail, a native of Haleyville, Ala., joined the Marine Corps in August 2001. Since her enlistment she has served in Okinawa with 3rd Force Service Support Group, working in various administrative billets throughout the country. She is still in the administrative field, but she is now assigned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Her job at the MAG is to process paperwork for assignments, awards, promotions, and more.

"We take care of our guys so they can take care of the 'birds,'" she said, referring to the group's CH-53D "Sea Stallion" helicopters.

According to her boss, her diligence, dedication and motivation are what her leaders say set her apart from others.

"There are a lot of moving parts in the squadron right now. The operation tempo is high," said Overstake. "She is doing an excellent job, working with about a dozen computer-based systems and managing the task load that comes along with it."

For Harquail, joining the Marine Corps was a test of will and a chance to prove to those who doubted she could make it in the Corps that she could.

"The drive to push on and prove all those people wrong

came from my mother," said Harquail. "The discipline to stick with it came from my dad."

Harquail said, like many women who have come before her, she has had her challenges.

"The hardest thing for a female Marine is having to continually prove yourself, because you are looked upon, by some, as the 'weak link,'" she said. "So, you have to keep pushing and drive on."

She went on to say that even though there are differences between male and female Marines, both are equal in the areas that matter.

"I don't think there is a difference between females and males when it comes to doing our job," she added. "We all get the job done."

"We deployed to Iraq together," said Harquail of her husband Sgt. Mitchell Harquail, administrative clerk, S-3. "It was good because we were able to experience that with each other and were able to be there for each other."

Harquail said that she and her husband first met when

they were going through gas chamber training.

"I had forgotten the inserts for my mask, and I am pretty much blind without my glasses," she admitted. "He sat down next to me, offered me some gum and said, 'I'll help you through.'"

Once they both returned from Iraq, Mitchell proposed to her at the Marine Corps Ball in front of their entire unit. The unit was present for their marriage in January.

Harquail said she has no problem balancing being a wife with being a Marine and there is no rivalry or problems with her and her husband being in the military. She said that in some cases, it has actually helped.

"The only thing we argue about really is whose job is harder," she said, laughing.

Harquail said that she believes the Marine Corps has given her many opportunities and has helped her develop not just as a Marine but as a person as well.

"It helped me find myself," she said. "I joined when I was 18 years old, so I didn't know

what was going on or what I was going to do."

According to Harquail, the Marine Corps has helped in every aspect of her life. It has given her more willpower, has helped her to be open minded, and has helped her to find out what she wanted from life.

One person she said has helped her realize her importance as a Marine is Sgt. Maj.

Karl Villalino, sergeant major, HMH-463.

"For the first time in five years, he was the first one who did not make me feel like the weak link," she said.

While on active duty, she attended college and now has plans to move forward into a new aspect of her life — working in justice administration.

With a few years of the

Corps behind her, Harquail said she now understands the commitments made by the women who came before her and encourages other women to step up and work hard for what they want.

"Don't let anything stand in your way," she said. "Always keep your will strong, and don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it."



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
Harquail sorts through paperwork at her desk at the squadron.



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
Sergeant Amanda Harquail, administrative chief, Marine Aircraft Group 24, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, poses on the flight line where CH-53D "Sea Stallion" helicopters are parked.

Missouri native named Sailor of the Year

Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

Serving in the military has given many service members stepping stones for success. For one Sailor assigned to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37, the military gave him a chance to shine.

Petty Officer 1st Class Walter R. Flowers, material control leading petty officer, HSL-37, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, joined the Navy in order to leave home in search of something more.

"I joined because I was ready to leave home and grow up on my own," said Flowers, a Kansas City, Mo., native. "I never really had a father figure role model growing up. My mom was pretty much both parents."

Flowers made his decision to join the military while attending Wichita Heights High School in Kansas City in 1992. Though the Air Force was his first choice, he said he chose the Navy after his stepbrother joined.

Flowers initially signed a contract for a two-year tour, but after getting his first taste of the military life, he said he should have enlisted for four.

"It's been an experience," said the 34-year-old regarding his Navy career. "It's been an eye opener – to make me really grow up and become the man that I am now. Something to tell my grandkids about."

Flowers hopes to tell his grandchildren about his visits to Germany, Bahrain, Australia, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. He said he loves it when he gets the opportunity to

travel to places.

Though Flowers has many destinations under his belt, he said the best place the Navy sent him was Hawaii.

"I started at the bottom here and worked my way up," he said. "I came here as a (petty officer) 3rd class and made my way up to first."

Flowers was named Sailor of the Quarter earlier this year for his squadron and later Sailor of the Year — something his superiors said was a long time coming.

"He's effective and does things right the first time, saving me time in order to do my job," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Zach Miller, maintenance senior chief, HSL-37. "He's a great person who gives his time to do community service and listens to other people's needs. He knows his people both on and off duty and gets involved in every aspect of their lives. He's well deserving of the Sailor of the Year title."

Flowers said once he decides to get out of the military, he wants a job with accounting due to his love of math but not before he reaches the goals he has set for himself as a Sailor.

Flowers' goal in the Navy is to either reach the rank of chief petty officer or to be commissioned.

"I've done 15 years as enlisted, so the officer community will be different for me," he said. "I've done what I've needed to do at this level. I'm ready to move on and do the responsibilities at the next, whether it be as a chief or an officer. I'm ready."



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Petty Officer 1st Class Walter R. Flowers, material control leading petty officer, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37, fills out paperwork to order supplies that his squadron needs. Flowers was recently named HSL-37 Sailor of the Year.

Movie review: ‘The Shawshank Redemption’



Cpl. Ryan Trevino
Community Relations Chief

Editor's note: Each week Hawaii Marine's own film critic Cpl. Ryan Trevino will provide readers

with in-depth reviews and unbiased ratings of a film currently in theaters or one of the many classics of yesterday.

The rating system requires some explanation before you get started. If the film being reviewed is currently available for rent or purchase it will be assigned a certain number of “microwaves” on a scale of one to four to rate its “reheat factor.”

If the film being reviewed is in theaters, it will be assigned a certain number of service stripes on a scale from one to four.

In other words, the more microwaves or service stripes the film receives, the better and more entertaining it is to watch.



Score: 4 out of 4 microwaves

Regrettably, this will be my last movie review for the Hawaii Marine. I'm off to the mainland. It's been a great ride, but now it's time to say farewell. I have reviewed good and bad films for more than three months now and hope I was

able to help you save some hard-earned money.

However, I do have some good news. I have saved my favorite film of all time, “The Shawshank Redemption,” to review last.

Director Frank Darabont adapted the novel written by horror master Stephen King and turned it into a somber, beautiful story of a wrongly imprisoned man who turned the system that ruined his life against itself.

Actors Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman are at the top of their game in this story of inspiration. Tim Robbins' character, Andy Dufresne, is a man who was sent to prison for life for a crime he didn't commit. However, Darabont doesn't reveal this to the audience until later in the story, which I believe was the only way to do it. It keeps the viewer constantly guessing who Andy Dufresne really is.

The prison location was realistic, emitting a sense of claustrophobia and hopelessness. The photography choices were impeccable throughout the film. They really put the viewer right into the mundane lives of the prisoners who have nothing to live for. However, Dufresne and his unique outlook on life began to rub off

on the people around him.

When Andy first arrived, the inmates, including Freeman's character Red, don't think much about him. They noticed that he was different and his emotions bubbled deep below the surface. Red even said Andy walked through the prison yard “like a man without a care in the world.”

Andy had trouble adapting to prison life at first, but as the film moves on, he eventually started to become accustomed to life in prison. When shocking evidence came out of Andy's innocence, he became uncooperative, because neither the warden nor the prison guards would help him get his ruling overturned.

You will have to watch the film to fill in the gaps. This is one you must actually see in order to understand the underlying context and cinematic style.

This is really one of the few “feel good” movies that leaves a lingering feeling of hope and inspiration to the viewer well after they finish watching the movie. It's a classic that should be a part of every movie-lover's collection.

ON THE MENU AT ANDERSON HALL

Friday

Lunch
Pepper steak
Southern fried catfish
Rice pilaf
Potatoes au gratin
Glazed carrots
Simmered black-eyed peas
Cream gravy
Lemon chiffon pie
Chocolate chip cookies
Marble cake w/chocolate frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Lime/raspberry gelatin
Specialty bar: Country bar

Dinner

Roast turkey
Beef pot pie
Mashed potatoes
Buttered egg noodles
Calico corn
Simmered broccoli
Savory bread dressing
Turkey gravy
Cranberry sauce
Desserts: Same as lunch

Saturday

Dinner
Baked lasagna
Chicken parmesan
Spaghetti noodles
Marinara sauce
Italian mixed vegetables
Simmered peas & carrots
Garlic bread
Cherry pie
Ginger molasses cookies
Spice cake w/butter cream frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Strawberry/lemon gelatin

Sunday

Dinner
Barbeque beef cubes
Baked turkey & noodles
Steamed rice
Creole green beans
Simmered cabbage
Chicken gravy
Sweet potato pie
Chocolate chip cookies
Yellow cake w/chocolate chip frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Cherry/orange gelatin

Monday

Lunch
Meat loaf
Pork ham roast
Tossed green rice
Mashed potatoes
Peas and mushrooms
French fried cauliflower
Brown gravy
Boston cream pie
Peanut butter cookies
Peanut butter cake w/peanut butter cream frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Lime/raspberry gelatin
Specialty bar: Pasta

Dinner

Beef Brogul
Baked Cajun Salmon Steaks
Potatoes O'brian
Noodles Jefferson
Club Spinach
Mixed Vegetables
Brown Gravy
Desserts: same as lunch

Tuesday

Lunch

Simmered corned beef w/apple glaze
Honey glazed cornish hens
Parsley buttered potatoes
Rice pilaf
Fried cabbage w/bacon
Simmered carrots
Chicken gravy
Mustard sauce
Blueberry pie
Oatmeal cookies
Strawberry shortcake
Vanilla cream pudding
Chocolate cream pudding
Cherry parfait
Strawberry parfait
Specialty bar: Taco

Dinner

Baked tuna & noodles
Sweet & sour pork
Pork fried rice
Steamed rice
Simmered broccoli
Simmered pinto beans
Turkey gravy
Chow mein noodles
Blueberry pie
Oatmeal cookies
Strawberry shortcake
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Cherry/strawberry parfait
Desserts: same as lunch

Wednesday

Lunch
Five spice chicken
Beef yakisoba
Pork fried rice
Vegetable stir fry
Corn O'brien
Banana cream pie
Oatmeal chocolate chip cookies
Carrot cake w/cream cheese

frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Lime/raspberry gelatin
Specialty bar: Hot dog & sausage

Dinner

Steak smothered w/onions
Southern fried catfish
Mashed potatoes
Baked macaroni & cheese
Southern style green beans
Fried okra
Brown gravy
Desserts same as lunch

Thursday

Lunch
Turkey a la king
Beef stroganoff
Mashed potatoes
Boiled egg noodles
Peas and carrots
Simmered mixed vegetables
Turkey gravy
Peach pie
Cheesecake w/blueberry topping
Chewy nut bars
White cake w/mocha cream frosting
Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding
Orange/strawberry gelatin
Specialty bar: Deli bar

Dinner

Braised liver w/onions
Honey ginger chicken
Chili macaroni
Grilled cheese sandwich
Rice pilaf
Boiled egg noodles
Lyonnaisse carrots
Club spinach
Chicken gravy
Desserts same as lunch

MARINE MAKEPONO

HAWAIIAN FOR “MARINE BARGAINS”

MISCELLANEOUS

O'Sullivan oak entertainment center, Little Tikes bouncy house, silver and gold baker's rack, glass shelves. \$75 each item. Call 664-4972.

Gas grill with cover \$50 or best offer. Sports card collection containing all sports. Best offer for entire collection. Call 254-9363.

MOTORCYCLES

2006 Honda CR-85 Dirtbike. Barely ridden, super condition. Leaving island. Gear included. \$3,000 OBO. Call 265-4457.

WANTED

Mother's helper wanted. Care of 10-month-old with in-home mom and light housework. Enthusiasm for children a must. Call Barb at 254-4175.

FREE

Cats. Leaving island, and must find homes for cats. Males and females available. All cats are spayed or neutered and microchipped. Cats are sweet, energetic and playful. Call Pam or Daniel at 254-4710.

Ads are accepted from active duty and retired military personnel, their family members and MCB Hawaii civil service employees.

Ads are free and will appear in two issues of Hawaii Marine, on a space- available basis.

The deadline for submitting ads to the Hawaii Marine is 4 p.m. the Friday of the week prior to publication.

Those interested in advertising must bring a valid DoD-issued ID to the Hawaii Marine Office.

Makepono may be used only for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property.

Forms may be filled out Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office located in Building 216, room 19, aboard Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay.

MOVIE TIME

Prices: Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m., shows are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee is shown at 2 p.m. Shows are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday are at 6:30 p.m. and late shows are shown Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.

Sneak Preview Policy: One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

Dream Girls (PG13)
The Hitcher (R)
Stomp The Yard (PG13)
Smokin' Aces (R)
Catch & Release (PG13)
Stomp The Yard (PG13)
Stomp The Yard (PG13)
The Queen (PG13)
Epic Movie (PG13)

Today at 7:15 p.m.
Today at 9:45 p.m.
Saturday at 7:15 p.m.
Saturday at 10 p.m.
Sunday at 2 p.m.
Sunday at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Friday at 7:15 p.m.
Friday at 10 p.m.

Marriage is more than wedding cake

Kelli Kirwan

LIFELines

Happily ever after begins right after the wedding, right? Perhaps in movies and fairy tales, but not in real life, and certainly not with the additional challenges that the military brings to a marriage. Romantic love, although known to cause giddiness in young women and loss of all reason in young men, is not the stuff that true marriages are made of. Romance is not what sees a marriage through to the 50th wedding anniversary.

Romance is an illusion, according to Gary Zukav, a relationship expert. It is not what real and enduring love is made of. Many people are fooled into thinking that once the romance is gone, the marriage is over. The realization that the real work must now begin is often so overwhelming and bitterly disappointing that the relationship is traded in for romance with someone else. Soon the initial excitement of the new romance begins to fade and reality sets in once again. Without commitment and realistic expectations, there is only unhappiness and sadness to look forward to.

To love and to cherish till death do you part? Before you say the vows, "For better or for worse, in sickness and in health," think about what they really mean.

Do you realize the magnitude of the commitment being made? It is an awesome task for two people to come together and carve out a life together. It's difficult to bring two people's family traditions, attitudes, and values together and make them into something that is their own. It is not something that is done overnight, or found in a manual. It is not done with moonlit strolls on the beach or by the light of candles in a darkened restaurant.

It is done sometimes through sorrow and disappointment when expectations crash against the seawall

of reality. It is done when a couple overcomes challenges, when they climb and conquer a seemingly unmovable mountain together. The road begun at an altar or courthouse, or under a rose-covered arbor, is one that stretches a lifetime. To begin it with little thought of what lies beyond the honeymoon is unwise and only makes the road harder to navigate.

So how do you make the journey from the decorated honeymoon car to the rocking chairs (or mountain bikes) of your golden years? Through perseverance, commitment, and realistic expectations of what marriage is really all about.

Be realistic. No one can fully prepare for the meshing of two lives, but it is possible to start out with expectations that are realistic.

We aren't born with this information, and it takes effort to replace the romantic notions we've grown up with, or the fear that may have been created if we witnessed unhappy marriages dissolve in anger and bitterness.

Nothing is for certain in a marriage except that ... nothing is for certain. All you can be sure of is your personal commitment to do your part.

Things to Think About Before You Walk Down the Aisle

You should have some serious discussions and make some serious decisions with your intended.

Dr. Phil, a popular relationship guru, has five questions you should ask yourself:

1. Why are you getting married?
2. Do you know and trust your partner's personal history?
3. Did you plan your marriage, instead of just your wedding?
4. Are you investing more than you can afford to lose?
5. Have you identified and communicated your needs and expectations?



File photo

In addition, the Chaplain Corps has opportunities for newly married or soon-to-be-married couples to invest more in their future than just deposits on reception halls.

They offer wonderful programs such as the Prevention & Relationship Enhancement Program and the Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation.

These programs benefit our Navy and Marine Corps families and are well worth the time spent.

The effort you put into a relationship now will pay off later.

Premarital counseling can help give you a realistic approach to your partner and the effects of the military on your marriage, as well as help you define life goals.

By discussing these things in advance, you can help start your new life off in the best possible direction.

No Such Thing as a Perfect Marriage

You must also realize that not one perfect marriage exists. Every marriage must be nurtured and worked on by both husband and wife. Small habits that may seem insignificant or even endearing in the beginning can become annoying with time. The strongest of marriages have their trials and low points. The successful ones are forged and strengthened in the fires of struggle, conflict, and life's unexpected twists. Marriages are refined by what you are willing to give and what you are willing to do.

You must realize that love is a verb. It takes action on the part of both husband and wife to make a healthy marriage. It means that sometimes you have to be the one to step back from a conflict or disagreement and offer the olive branch of peace. It means being willing to see the other

person's point of view, and being humble enough to allow them to have a differing opinion. You also must understand that although you are committed as one to your marriage, you are still two different and unique individuals. Embracing those differences and not trying to spend all your time changing each other will bring strength and diversity to your relationship. It is, after all, those differences that probably brought you together in the first place.

When your service to the country is complete and you are faced with life beyond the Navy or Marine Corps, who is it that will walk into the future with you? It will not be the Navy or the Marine Corps that will be by your side, but the one you began that journey with. You owe it to each other to do all you can to make sure you are prepared for a lifetime, not just a wedding.

Are you getting married for the right reason?

Myths of marrying in the military

Cherie Dewar

LIFELines

A Sailor getting fresh air on the deck of a ship says to his buddy, "I can't wait to get back home. I wish I could get a place of my own in town, but I'll be stuck living on this ship."

The other Sailor, unflatteringly regarded as a "sea lawyer," responds, "Hey, why don't you just marry another Sailor, and then you'll get paid more money to live off base and always be stationed together?"

Stop the boat. Sailors and Marines should know there's some truth to this proposal, but if you're considering marriage or pregnancy for any reason other than love and commitment, be aware of all the responsibilities and consequences that result from these life-altering actions.

Myth #1:

Make an easy profit by getting married and moving off base.

Perhaps the additional money you receive for getting married and moving off base will increase your income, but are you considering the whole package? It's likely that the Basic Allowance for Housing won't cover 100 percent of your rent or mortgage payments.

Additionally, there's the cost of electricity, gas, sewer, trash removal, cable TV, lawn maintenance, and renter's insurance. You'll need to buy furniture, and likely a first or second car, along with insurance, registration, maintenance, and gas costs.

When you move out of the barracks, you'll probably receive Basic Allowance for Subsistence, but the military doesn't calculate the amount to cover family member food costs.

It's possible to move off base

and receive BAH without saying, "I do." If a ship or barracks nears its capacity, the command may offer BAH for off-base quarters.

Myth #2:

Get married to escape field day.

If you're thinking you can avoid utility and transportation expenses by marrying and living on base, and that you'll get the added bonus of avoiding field day and inspections, be aware that on-base housing is government property.

You're expected to maintain a clean environment there, and you are subject to inspection. Landlords off base will also expect their properties to be kept clean.

Myth #3:

Get married for more money, and life will be easy.

If you still believe you can gain extra cash by entering into a "contract marriage," or marriage of convenience, remember that you're entering a legal union that brings responsibility. You can be accountable financially if your spouse fails to pay his or her debts. If you separate, you will still need to support and provide housing for your spouse.

Entering a contract marriage with another military member doesn't draw the higher "with dependents" BAH, but instead both you and your service-member spouse receive BAH as if you were single. Instead of taking false vows, the same amount of BAH can be drawn by simply waiting to move off base when your ship or barracks reach a high capacity.

Myth #4:

Become a parent to duck sea duty.

It's true that female Sailors and Marines are removed from sea duty for the duration of their pregnancies and maternity leave, but afterward they are eligible to return to sea duty with a doctor's clearance.

Myth #5:

Married military members will always be stationed together.

If two military members marry, detailers will try to keep them together, but there's no guarantee. The needs of the military come first. And deployment time isn't decreased either.

Don't get married or pregnant for the wrong reasons. Seek the advice of a chaplain, the Fleet and Family Support Center, or Marine Corps Community Services, if you have any questions.



Cpl. Lameen Witter

Two Marines get married in front the Soldiers', Sailors', Marines' and Airmen's Club in New York.

Volunteer coordinator keeps families informed

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

Faith Cowart informs families about orders from general commands aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. It's a duty she said she's proud to perform as a volunteer coordinator for the Key Volunteer Network.

Her attention extends beyond her volunteering responsibilities to her full-time job as an Army intelligence assistant at Fort Shafter in Honolulu.

"Whenever we have meetings, she'll make the conference room very comfortable," said Jim Scofield, deputy, Intelligence Office, U.S. Army Pacific. "She'll make sure there's coffee and brings out the good china for visitors. Faith knows the people we meet with have traveled here from far away, and she'll want to make them feel at home."

With 14 years working as a volunteer, Cowart said she strives continually to be a good source of support for others.

"I take care of people," said Cowart, when asked what her job duties were.

A mother of two, her husband is a first sergeant with 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

His current assignment to Iraq is the sixth deployment the couple has faced since getting married in 1995.

She said widespread use of e-mail has been great in helping her send out information to families, since she started her volunteer work.

Cowart said she recalls distributing information was slow during operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Cowart said other volunteers have dubbed her "the queen of e-mail," because anyone with questions can easily contact her.

"It's totally different from where we were 13 or 14 years ago – when we didn't have combat deployments," she said. "Spouses have a lot more on their plates when dealing with this sort of deployment."

Besides informing families of regulations and resources available to them, she leads 37 volunteers in the network's projects. The volunteers worked on several projects together – collecting blankets for babies born during the deployment and visiting wounded Marines.

The primary caregiver to her daughters, Cowart said she realizes a Marine's combat service can be stressful for families. She has strived to make policymakers more aware of a need for psychologists in her role as a volunteer coordinator. The mother of two said psychologists are needed among military family members, especially children.

"It's very difficult for (the children) to know that their dad or mom is someplace that's not safe," Cowart said. "I



Christine Cabalo

Faith Cowart, Key Volunteer Network coordinator, stands in front of an historic home along Palm Circle at Fort Shafter in Honolulu. Cowart, who works as an intelligence assistant at Fort Shafter, said she is blessed to work with many great service members.

don't think they sleep as well, and their schooling suffers."

The volunteer coordinator said children need an outlet of expression, especially when their parent's job requires them to move to different bases worldwide.

Cowart, whose father was an industrial engineer with the Army for 14 years, said she understands having to frequently relocate.

As a child, the process for her was challenging, but she said having a variety of experiences has helped her become a more well-rounded person.

"You learn different coping

and management skills," she said. "Having that experience makes it easier to adjust to different environments."

Cowart said her management skills have made it easy to work with different branches of the military.

She said she is blessed with the opportunity to work with great service members.

"It's been great, because Faith has kept us informed of things on the Marine side," said Scofield. "Her volunteer work doesn't interfere with her duties, and she's kept us connected with what's going on."



Cpl. Rick Nelson

Drug Education For Youth Program mentees try to keep their balance on a log during a team-building exercise at Kualoa Ranch July 2006. Volunteers are needed for this prevention program.

Volunteers needed for summer camp

News Release

Drug Education For Youth Program

What is DEFY?

DEFY, or Drug Education For Youth, is a prevention program that delivers strong youths for strong families who are ready for the future.

DEFY is looking for men and women volunteers from the Navy and Marine Corps — active or retired — and Department of Defense employees for the upcoming year as mentors for our youths.

In addition to assisting with positive role modeling;

leadership skills; and alcohol, drug, violence and gang prevention lessons, volunteers will enjoy many exciting activities with the children. Volunteers will accompany children to Sea Life Park, the Bishop Museum, and sailing trips on the Paradise Cruise "Diamond Head Odyssey" fun cruise, and more!

All activities are at no cost to volunteers. All that is required is your dedication and your time. We need a minimum of eight mentors to be signed up by June 15.

Staff training is set for

June 19 to 21, and the Phase I Summer Leadership Camp is from July 16 to 25.

Phase II Mentoring Program begins in August and continues through May 2008.

All adult volunteer mentors need to request PTAD for the dates listed.

If you are interested and want to learn more, call Daryl Picadura, program coordinator at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Military Police Department at 257-8559 or 257-1148 or by e-mail at daryl.picadura@usmc.mil.

MCCS Briefs

www.mccshawaii.com

Today

SNCO Club

Enjoy an evening of pampering from Marine Corps Community Services and the SNCOs of Combat Service Support Group 3 from 4 to 10 p.m.

Cost is for \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members.

Evening events are open to E-6 through E-9 and sponsored guests.

For information, call Robbie Nicholas at 254-5481.

The Officers’ Club

Enjoy traditional Irish cuisine and green beverages during the club's St. Patrick's Day celebration from 5:30 p.m.

Open to club members.

For information, call Don Figueira at 254-7650.

Tomorrow

Kahuna's Bar & Grill

Listen to the sounds of the O'Carlton Band and enjoy corned beef and cabbage and Irish stew during the club's St. Patrick's Day celebration beginning at 6 p.m.

Open to E-1s to E-5s and sponsored guests.

For information, call Alexis Swenson at 254-7660.

SNCO Club

Dinner and entertainment will be provided along with games for the children from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. the club's St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Open to E-6 through E-9 and sponsored guests.

For information, call Robbie Nicholas at 254-5481.

Sneak preview of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles at the Base Theater at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets will go on sale at 4:30 p.m. and doors open at 5:30 p.m.

This show is open to all hands, family members, Department of Defense employees and sponsored guests.

For information, call Deborah Bruns at 254-7664.

Tuesday

Spring Holiday Swim Lessons at the Main Pool.

Lessons are open to all active duty, retired, family members, and DoD employees.

For information and future lessons dates, call Harry Sprague at 254-7655.

Monday through March 30

Junior Basic Sailing Lessons at the Base Marina

Children 8 to 18 can take charge of the water by learning the sport of sailing.

The cost is \$99 for this two-week course.

For information, call Neil Morgan at 254-7667.

Ongoing Operation Homefront

Marine Corps Base Hawaii and MCCS present Operation Homefront, a program designed for families of deployed Marines and Sailors.

This program includes a series of free monthly events for family members. For more information, contact the Marine Corps Family Team Building Officer at 257-2087 or log on to www.mccshawaii.com/events.htm.

Make used clothes for children look new

Pamela L. Wilkins
LIFELines

Today, second-hand shopping is cool and trendy. There are rummage, garage and yard sales plus vintage clothing stores, flea markets, and thrift, consignment and resale shops to choose from. All of these offer the opportunity to save big money on children's clothing.

Shopping for second-hand children's clothes makes sense because it offsets the high cost of raising children, who grow like weeds and can be rough on their duds. So why pay top dollar?

For this reason, some military families have chosen to buy their children's clothing from second-hand stores. You may want to consider that option as well. For a young family on a tight budget, it's a matter of necessity and practicality. Also, it can become fun, creative, challenging and chic. Imagine your children wearing name-brand clothes that have cost you less than \$4. Using thrift shop finds, you can arrange and make unique and fashionable clothing that your kids will absolutely love while satisfying their urge for name brands.

It's the best of both worlds.

Your children will look cool and your family will save money. You don't have to be a designer or a seamstress to turn castoffs into cool outfits. Just use your imagination. Try your local Navy Marine Corps Relief Society thrift shop, where they have \$2 fill-a-bag specials, and 25-cent tables. Don't forget the Salvation Army and Goodwill. Check out Children's Consignment, and try these tips:

- Add whimsical buttons, beads, ribbons, lace, jewelry, badges or patches to update used clothes.
- Consider dyeing an item if it is too faded or is the wrong color.
- Stick to quality, classic styles and colors that are timeless.
- Planning is key. Make lists of your children's clothing needs.
- Arrive at shops early and check often for best selection.
- Check the newspaper for garage sales.
- Consider consigning your children's outgrown clothes for extra cash.

Shopping at second-hand stores is not only good for your budget, it also teaches your children life lessons about how to shop, spend and save wisely.

I’m a survivor



Lance Cpl. Joseph R. Stahlman

A Marine with U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, Foreign Military Training Unit, constructs a shelter to provide cover and concealment in the wild at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. The unit conducted survival, evasion, resistance and escape training late January. During the nine-day training exercise, the Marines were taught how to trap and kill game, prepare meals, and survive on limited supplies for extended periods behind enemy lines. The unit now includes 11 operational teams. More teams are forming, so MARSOC is looking for qualified volunteers to take on the challenge of Marine Special Operations missions. Active duty Marines and hospital corpsmen interested in joining MARSOC are encouraged to contact the Marine Special Operations School at (910) 450-2722/2762, or on line at www.marsoc.usmc.mil.